

reverent" and by the Scout Slogan: "Do a good turn daily".

Scouting develops leadership skills and ethics that foster future success in life. Many of our country's greatest leaders have been scouts, and having been a scout, especially achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, is an achievement that is highly prized by our Military Service Academies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Boy Scout Troop 1501 on the occasion of its 45th anniversary and in thanking its Scoutmaster Brian Hamilton, volunteers, family members and community sponsors for their commitment to our children.

TO RECOGNIZE THE MARAH
CHRISTIAN COUNSELING CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Marah Christian Counseling Center on the occasion of its 5th Anniversary.

In 2001, the Rev. Dr. Deloris Washington, who served as a pastoral counselor at the First Baptist Church of Merrifield, had a vision to create a Christian counseling center to provide care and counseling services to those facing emotional challenges and difficulties. In 2006, the vision became a reality when the Marah Christian Counseling Center, MCCC, opened its doors.

Since that time, MCCC has provided spiritually-based services to our community in four primary categories: Family Counseling, Individual Counseling, Pre-marital and Marital Counseling, and Support Groups. MCCC offers individual, couples, and group programs for all in need. Individual counseling services include anger management, depression, grief counseling, divorce and separation, financial counseling, stress management, and programs designed for the special needs of our children and teens. The pre-marital program offered by MCCC, which is a year-long program, is designed to ensure that areas of conflicts are addressed before the wedding and reduce subsequent divorce rates.

Each of us face pain, confusion, or loss of a loved one during our lifetime. I commend the Marah Christian Counseling Center for providing support during those difficult times.

Mr. Speaker I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Marah Christian Counseling Center on the occasion of its 5th anniversary, and in thanking the Rev. Dr. Deloris Washington for her leadership and service to our community.

MR. FRANCESCO BELLINI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Francesco Bellini who has been honored on numerous occasions for his major contributions in the fields of entrepreneurship, research and economy.

Originally from Italy, Dr. Bellini immigrated to Quebec, Canada, in 1967. With a handful of English words, a non-existent French vocabulary and empty pockets, Dr. Bellini began his journey to achieve the American dream. In 1972, he graduated from Loyola University with a Bachelor of Science degree. Five years later, he completed his Doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of New Brunswick.

In 1986, he co-founded BioChem Pharma, an innovative biopharmaceutical company focused on infectious diseases and cancer. Under his leadership as chairman and chief executive officer, CEO, he helped develop and commercialize BioChem Pharma's first therapeutic drug, 3TC, the earliest anti-HIV compound drug ever commercialized. Today, 3TC remains the cornerstone of combination HIV/AIDS infection therapies. Dr. Bellini's company went on to become one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in Canada. After several years, he sold the company and became the current chairman of BELLUS Health, ViroChem Pharma, Picchio Internation, Picchio Pharma, Prognomix and Molson Coors. Additionally, Dr. Bellini is the author or co-author of over 20 patents and published numerous articles and papers based on his research.

Furthermore, Dr. Bellini is known for his philanthropy. In November of 2011, he donated over one million dollars to the Alzheimer Society of Laval in Italy. His donation helped construct a new, much larger residence and treatment center for those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. In addition, Dr. Bellini donated ten million dollars towards the new Life Sciences building at McGill University in Quebec. The new building will house scientists researching cancer, genetics of complex traits, chemical biology, developmental and reproductive biology, and cell information transfer systems.

Mr. Speaker, by dedicating his life to furthering medical research and pharmaceuticals, Dr. Francesco Bellini stands as an icon not only to those in Italy and Canada, but also to those in the United States as well. Therefore, I join my fellow Italian-Americans in honoring Dr. Bellini for his lifetime of achievements.

TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND
COMMEMORATE THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF
PASTOR LENWOOD GRAHAM, SR.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and commemorate the 15th anniversary of the passing of Pastor Lenwood Graham, Sr. Pastor Graham served his community and his faith as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Merrifield from 1983 to 1997.

Pastor Graham devoted his life to serving his God, his church, his family, his country, and his community. He was a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Ruth, a wonderful father to his children, Lenwood, Jr., and Lanya, and a doting grandfather. Pastor Graham served in the United States Army during the Vietnam war, achieving the rank of Sergeant. During his life, he was involved in nu-

merous community organizations and activities including the NAACP, the Northern Virginia Baptist Association, and the Northern Virginia Ministers Conference. Always passionate about learning, he was enrolled in a Masters of Divinity program at the time of his passing on March 27, 1997, at the age of 50.

Pastor Graham led the First Baptist Church of Merrifield for 14 years. During this time, the membership of the church grew to more than 750, and the church became more active in foreign and domestic missionary work. Under his leadership, the Merrifield Child Development Center was established and continues to provide faith-based comprehensive pre-school and kindergarten educational programs as well as before and after school child care for local elementary schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the life of my friend, Pastor Lenwood Graham, Sr. The contributions he made during his much-too-short life continue to this day as a living testament to his faith and his service to our community, and they are worthy of our highest praise and commendation.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague, Congressman ROBERT WITTMAN, to recognize the 75th anniversary of Prince William Forest Park.

In 1936, the National Park Service opened the gates to Prince William Forest Park, then known as Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area. Chopawamsic was the model for a new National Park Service program that provided low-income families with easy access to the outdoors during the Great Depression. Chopawamsic represented the ideal that all Americans should have access to the fresh air and serenity found in our nation's parks.

At Chopawamsic, the National Park Service focused particularly on providing the overnight, outdoor recreation opportunities for impoverished urban children. As often happens, the youth of our nation bore the brunt of our national suffering during hard times of the Great Depression. In segregated camps, the children of the Great Depression found health care in their camp's infirmary, nutritional food in their camp's mess hall, and a peaceful night's sleep beneath the stars in sleeping cabins.

These cabin camps were built through the sweat and labor of Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration workers. For 8 years, more than 2,000 relief workers constructed summer camp "havens" for kids while earning sustenance for their families. That these cabins continue to welcome Americans today, 75 years later, is a testament to the superior construction and hard work of those public works programs.

As our nation left behind its fight against the Great Depression, it joined the new national fight—World War II. Chopawamsic joined the war effort by becoming the Advanced Special Operations and Communications training schools for the fledgling Office of Strategic